THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The plant is proposed to be located at Taloja, District Raigarh in Maharashtra and is expected to cost Rs. 18.5 crores. It will generate employment for about 70 persons.

(c) The Company has (i) acquired a Letter of Intent for setting up of the plant; (ii) taken possession of land in an industrial estate having water and power facilities; (iii) has taken steps to ensure availability of of natural gas; (iv) has placed orders for plant system SCR 2000 on M/s. Southwire, USA for supply of technology, equipment and field services; and (v) has appointed an Indian Consultant for detailed engineering, supervision and project management

Overdues in cooperative credit

1789. SHRI SHARAD YADAV:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite phenomenal growth in agricultural credit, further credit expansion has been inhibited due to the mounting overdues both in the cooperative credit sector and the commercial banking sector;

(b) if so, what is the comparative percentage of rise in the overdues since 1984-85, till date;

(c) what are the major factors responsible for the mounting overdues; and

(d) what measures have so far been taken by Government to check the rising overdues in the cooperative credit to ease the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Mounting overdues is one of the factors for lesser expansion of agricultural credit through cooperatives.

(b) The position of overdues to demand at Primary Agricultural Credit Societies level was of the order of about 41 per cent and 42 per cent during 1984-85 and 1985-86 respectively, whereas at Primary Land Development Bank level, the position was about 40 per cent and 41.7 per cent respectively during these years.

(c) Major factors responsible for the mounting overdues in the cooperative credit are: wilful default, natural calamities, deficiency in loaning policies and procedures, failure of linking credit with marketing, lack of effective supervision etc.

(d) The problem of overdues has been discussed with State|Union Territory Governmnets from time to time. They have been advised to take appropriate action to gear up administrative machinery to have special collection drive so as to improve recovery performance of cooperative credit institutions.

Mobile vans for public distribution system

1790. SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mobile vans supplied by the Central Government to States and Union Territories for use under the Public Distribution System (PDS) during the last three years, statewise and Union Territory wise;

(b) what are the criteria for giving such mobile vans and what are the conditions, if any; and

(c) whether any monitoring is being done at the centre to see that the mobile vans are working propery?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL